

ANTI-AUTO BURGLARY TIPS

- Always roll up the windows and lock the doors even if you park in front of your home.
- Never leave valuables in plain view even if your car is locked.
- Never "hide" spare keys in your car.
- Park in well lighted secure areas.
- Invest in an automobile burglar alarm system.
- Engrave accessories, fancy wheels, stereo etc. Removable stereo faceplates are recommended.
- Never leave personal information in the car carry it with you.
- Replace "T"-shaped door locks with straight locks. A thief can use various tools to gain access inside the vehicle, grab and pull the lock. Straight locks prevent this.
- Install a secondary hood lock. This prevents the thief from gaining access to your car security system and battery.
- If you see suspicious activity dial 911 immediately, don't wait.

Make Your Car
Unappealing To
Burglars

Larceny-theft offenses cost victims an estimated \$2.1 billion in lost property in 2004. The average value of property stolen from a burglarized auto in 2003 was \$997 per offense. These amounts have been steadily increasing.



You Can Do
Something
About It

The cost of property crimes continues to rise. Your police department wants you to be informed about crime prevention.

In many cases these automobile burglaries were preventable. By just taking a few simple steps you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim.



**Lafayette Police Department
Precinct 2**

Law enforcement asks for your help in reducing the threat of this type of crime. In this brochure we will find some tips we hope will help you in securing your vehicle.

**LAFAYETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PATROL DIVISION
PRECINCT 2**

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AUTO THEFT & BURGLARY

20 WAYS TO

**WATCH YOUR
CAR**

**Courtesy of the Lafayette
Police Department
Precinct 2
337.291.8600**

Make Your Car Tough To Steal

A vehicle is stolen every 20 seconds in the United States. Auto theft is big business! If auto theft were legalized and incorporated it would rank 56th among the fortune 500 companies.



You are the first line in crime prevention. Always report suspicious activity.

A thief's greatest enemy is time. By making your car a tougher target the thief will probably move on to a car that is easier to steal.

The top five most stolen cars in the USA:

1. Toyota Camry
2. Ford F-150 Pick-Up
3. Honda Accord
4. Chevy C-150 Pick-Up
5. Acura Legend

Because of the popularity of these automobiles there is always a demand for parts.

**YOU CAN DO SOMETHING TO
REDUCE A THIEF'S OPPORTUNITY**

Make Your Car Unappealing To Burglars

Larceny-theft offenses cost victims an estimated \$5.1 billion in lost property in 2004.



The cost of property crimes continue to rise. Your police department wants you to be informed about crime prevention.

The average value of property stolen from a burglarized auto in 2003 was \$697 per offense. These amounts have been steadily increasing.

You Can Do Something About It

In Many cases these automobile burglaries were preventable. By just following a few simple common sense precautions you can reduce your chances of becoming victimized.

Law enforcement asks for your help in reducing the thief's opportunity to commit crime. In this brochure you will find some tips we hope will help you in securing your car.

Together, we can make our community a safer place for everyone.

ANTI-THEFT TIPS

- Never leave your car running and unattended even if to dash into a business.
- Never leave your keys in the car or the ignition, even in a locked garage.
- Install a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel column, or brake pedal to prevent the wheel from being turned. Commonly called clubs, collars, or J-bars these devices can act as a highly visible deterrent if installed properly.
- Install an ignition "kill" switch." This is the #1 deterrent. Have a mechanic splice an inexpensive toggle switch into the ignition switch. These devices cost just a few dollars and can be hidden within the car.
- Don't loan your car to others. They may not be as property conscious as you are.
- Talk to your neighbors, keep vigilant and watch out for one another.
- Invest in a quality vehicle theft alarm.
- If your vehicle is rear wheel drive, back into your driveway. Rear wheels lock on 4-wheel drive vehicles, making them difficult to tow. Front wheel drive vehicles should be parked front end first.
- Park your car where you can see it. Check it often.
- Never approach a suspicious person, always dial 911 to report such activity.